United Nations A/ES-10/PV.9

General Assembly
Tenth Emergency Special Session

Official Records

9th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 17 March 1998, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Udovenko ..... (Ukraine)

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Agenda item 5 *(continued)*

Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Draft resolution (A/ES-10/L.1/Rev.1)

Mr. Hachini (Tunisia) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The General Assembly is resuming its emergency special session today to consider "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". A year has elapsed since the General Assembly began its consideration of this question. The Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions in this respect demanding that Israel cease its illegal actions in the occupied territories, including, first and foremost, the establishment of settlements. In contempt of those resolutions, Israel is continuing to create settlements, thereby contravening General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as well as the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In addition to these negative developments, there has been no implementation of the urgent request made by the General Assembly to take action in the context of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The General Assembly, in its resolution ES-10/4 of 13 November 1997 — the fourth General Assembly resolution adopted in this respect — recommended that the Contracting Parties convene a conference on measures to enforce the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect in accordance with common article 1.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly recommended that the Government of Switzerland, in its capacity as the depository of the Fourth Geneva Convention, undertake the necessary steps to prepare for that conference, including the convening of a meeting of experts, as soon as possible and with a target date not later than the end of February 1998. However, that meeting has not been convened, despite the fact that the Swiss Government has contacted and held consultations with High Contracting Parties, for which we are very grateful.

This situation, characterized by Israel's continued illegal practices and policies and the non-respect of General Assembly resolutions, cannot be allowed to go on. Its consequences for the region are well known, namely escalating and intensified violence and the deprivation of the political, economic and social rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, as well as their right to live in peace and security, like the other peoples of the region.

In view of this emergency situation, the General Assembly must continue closely to follow the situation, in keeping with its historical responsibilities vis-à-vis the Palestinian people and its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, we believe that the new draft resolution submitted to this tenth

98-85124 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

emergency special session is a balanced one and meets its objective, given that it reiterates the earlier demands addressed to Israel as well as the recommendations to the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention and to the depository State of that Convention.

We call on the members of the General Assembly to support this draft resolution, because the situation prevailing today in the Palestinian territories demands of us all that we send a clear message to the parties concerned in order to protect the rights of Palestinian nationals in these territories from the attacks against them, which contravene the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the principles of the peace process and the spirit and letter of the agreements reached in this respect.

Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia): The General Assembly is meeting once again today in a resumed tenth emergency special session to consider "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory". Almost a year has elapsed since the international community voiced its strong condemnation of the illegal Israeli settlement activities at Jebel Abu Ghneim at the first meeting of the tenth emergency special session of this body, convened on 25 April 1997 and which adopted General Assembly resolution ES-10/2. Subsequently, in July and November 1997, the General Assembly adopted resolutions ES-10/3 and ES-10/4, respectively, which, *inter alia*, called for the immediate cessation of Israel's settlement activities, especially in and around Jebel Abu Ghneim to the south of occupied East Jerusalem; the acceptance by Israel of the *de jure* applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 to all the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967; and the reversal of all illegal measures taken against the Palestinian population in contravention of international law.

To our utter dismay and disappointment, none of those resolutions have been implemented. On the contrary, our deliberations today are being held against the backdrop of a deteriorating situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territory and a continuing deadlock in the Middle East peace process. Israel has not demonstrated the slightest indication of the will to cease its illegal activities by heeding the repeated calls of the General Assembly. In recent days we have witnessed with deep concern the indiscriminate use of force by Israeli authorities, without any provocation whatsoever, resulting in the killing of innocent civilians at an army checkpoint in the West Bank between the Palestinian villages of Tarkoumiah and Idnah. This tragedy has led to escalating tension and violence in the occupied territory. We are deeply cognizant of the grave ramifications that these untenable actions pose, particularly the incalculable damage to the peace process itself and to the prospects of achieving a comprehensive and durable solution to the entire Middle East conflict.

In this regard, the draft resolution before us, in the light the gravity of the situation, essentially reiterates the elements contained in previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. My delegation would like to highlight the text's reiteration of the recommendation to convene a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to enforce the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and to ensure respect in accordance with common article 1. The draft resolution would extend the target date for the convening of the meeting of experts of the High Contracting Parties to the end of April 1998.

Indonesia has long underscored the need to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We wish to reiterate our unswerving solidarity with the Palestinian people, especially in the exercise of their inalienable rights and for the establishment of an independent sovereign homeland on their national soil. It has been our consistent position that the long-awaited peace in the region can be attained only through the full implementation of all relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978), and on the basis of the principle of land for peace.

Ever since its inception, the United Nations has borne a historical and moral responsibility towards the Palestinian people. More than five decades later, the validity and importance of the role of the United Nations remains constant and unquestionable; the Organization must continue to exert every effort to find a solution to this seemingly intractable question. We must therefore endeavour to consider further means by which the sacred Palestinian cause can be advanced. The draft resolution before us charts the way towards the fulfilment of the legitimate sovereign rights of the Palestinians and towards national statehood. The road to peace has been long and arduous; hence, we should grasp the opportunities before us.

Mr. Konishi (Japan): As a direct result of the initiation of the construction of new settlements by the Government of Israel in East Jerusalem, the peace

process between Israel and Palestine is losing its momentum and direction. The stalemate in the peace process between Palestinians and Israel cannot but affect the other tracks of the peace process in the Middle East, such as the Syrian track, and multilateral consultations, and it is heightening the tension in the region as a whole.

As a sincere promoter of multilateral consultations, and also as a country continuously playing a leading role in economic assistance to Palestine, Japan has been contributing to the peace and stability of the Middle East. If the situation continues to deteriorate, the whole region is bound to suffer critically. The Government of Japan is truly concerned at such a prospect.

During the past couple of months, in addition to the tension surrounding the peace process, we have witnessed another increase in tension as a result of non-compliance by the Iraqi Government with resolutions of the Security Council relating to weapons of mass destruction. The situation with regard to Iraq is now heading towards stabilization thanks to the diplomatic efforts of the Secretary-General and to the adoption of Security Council resolution 1154 (1998), sponsored by Japan and the United Kingdom, which endorsed the agreement reached between the Secretary-General and the Iraqi authorities.

It is high time to put an end to the chronic vicious circle of the Middle East peace process and to bring that process back on track. It is our ardent hope that all the parties, especially the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, will come to the table with the desired flexibility for the greater cause of the peace and stability of the whole region. The Government of Israel in particular must faithfully implement its commitments regarding the redeployment of troops in the West Bank.

In recent weeks we have seen tensions mounting in the occupied territories. The parties concerned must not allow acts of violence to derail the peace process. We urge the parties concerned to reinforce their efforts and cooperation in the area of security.

We are ready to support the draft resolution before us. The Government of Japan, however, has no doubt that the most desired efforts in the Middle East peace process must come from the parties directly concerned. For this reason, the Government of Japan would like to suggest that, in determining the timing of both the expert meeting and the conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, consideration be given to convening these meetings in such a way that they will not affect adversely the efforts between the parties directly concerned.

In conclusion, we should like to express again our appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for the sincere efforts it has made thus far in its capacity as a depositary of the Convention.

Mr. Snoussi (Morocco) (*interpretation from French*): I wish first of all, Mr. President, to thank you warmly for having organized this resumption of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly.

It has been nearly a year since the General Assembly called upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to take the measures necessary to carry out their obligations under that Convention and ensure that the Palestinians of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, enjoy greater protection. The efforts made thus far, however, have not achieved that objective.

The construction of Israeli settlements has continued in Jebel Abu Ghneim and elsewhere, reflecting indifference to international opinion, which is losing interest in a question that has been on the table for too long.

The General Assembly is well aware of the unbearable human price paid by the Palestinian people because of the construction of settlements and other illegal activities carried out by Israel in East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories.

Israel is not only building new settlements, but is expanding existing ones, building bypass roads, confiscating land adjacent to settlements and undermining the rights and status of Palestinian citizens, who increasingly find that their identity cards, attesting to their residence in Jerusalem, are being confiscated. To this we must add the protracted closures of the Palestinian territories, the confiscation of natural resources, the diversion of water sources, collective punishment, and the arbitrary detention of Palestinian prisoners — and, unfortunately, the list goes on and on.

These practices are all violations on the part of the Israeli Government and should make us face up to the disappointing reality that Israel continues to thumb its nose at the resolutions of the United Nations, the Oslo peace accords and international conventions, in particular

the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Given such incontestable and unfortunate facts, this special session has lost none of its urgency. The disastrous humanitarian situation caused by Israel's illegal activities — in particular its construction of settlements — and the Palestinian population's sense of frustration and abandonment make more urgent than ever the implementation of the recommendations made by the General Assembly in its resolutions ES-10/2, ES-10/3 and ES-10/4 to the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to undertake measures at the national and regional levels to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

In his statement of 3 March, made on the occasion of the Festival of the Throne, our national holiday, His Majesty King Hassan II, President of the Al-Quds Committee, said:

> "The hopes for the region inspired by the Oslo accords are dissipating under the Israeli Government's obstinacy in turning its back on all its commitments, persevering in its arrogance and exposing its own citizens and those of the entire region to dangerous tensions ..."

This resumed session is therefore most certainly the time to send a clear and unequivocal message to Israel, which must recognize that its contempt for the will of the international community cannot be tolerated forever. It is time that Israel respect its commitments, end any activity that could alter the demographic and geographic character of the Holy City of Al-Quds and the other occupied Palestinian territories, and abandon any scheme that might prejudge the final status negotiations.

One of the sponsors of the peace process, through its spokesperson, recently described the despair of the Palestinian people before the disastrous way this process has unfolded. Let us therefore take the opportunity of this resumed session to give renewed hope to the Palestinian people and to reassure it of the inalienable nature of its legitimate rights.

My delegation is firmly convinced that we must focus our efforts in that direction if we are to get the peace process moving again and ensure the implementation of the agreements made between the Israelis and the Palestinians on the basis of the principle of land for peace. We are also confident that, during his forthcoming visit to the region, the Secretary-General will not fail to use his well-known wisdom and skills to relaunch the peace process, as he recently did when the memorandum of understanding was signed with the Iraqi Government. We dare to hope that this is a blueprint for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. It is now up to Israel to summon the necessary will. Our hope is slim, very slim, but we dare yet to hope.

The draft resolution before us, of which Morocco is a sponsor, reiterates the recommendations made by the General Assembly in its previous resolutions, particularly that of convening a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

In this regard, we recognize the efforts made by the Swiss Government, depositary of the Convention, and thank it in advance for the measures it will take in accordance with the General Assembly's recommendations on the convening of the meeting of experts prior to the conference of States Parties. Since the date originally set for that meeting of experts has already passed, we propose, through today's draft resolution, the end of April as the deadline for that meeting.

In pursuit of that objective, we recommend that all Member States vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. Buallay (Bahrain) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Permit me at the outset to extend to you, Sir, our warmest thanks for resuming the work of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly. I should also like to express my appreciation to the Member States that supported the Arab request to resume this session. The resumption reveals the eagerness of the United Nations and its Member States to promote a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The establishment of the United Nations augured well for the peace and security of the Member States and their peoples and for the preservation of their rights as they aspired to a prosperous future of security under the umbrella of this international Organization. In this context, the Palestinian people, chafing under the yoke of the unjust Israeli occupation, yearns for the day when the United Nations will bring its long-standing tragedy to a close and rid it of the injustice of the Israeli occupier, which has always tried to displace it and to deprive it of

its right to self-determination and to build its independent State, in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

States Members of our Organization enjoy certain rights, but they also have responsibilities. Should they fail to meet these responsibilities, the Organization will be unable to fulfil its commitments towards them. However, the Israeli Government has persistently shunned these duties by violating the United Nations resolutions and shirking their implementation by any means. This behaviour indicates Israel's disregard for the will of the international community. Israel's continued settlement activities and illegal acts in the occupied Arab territories, particularly East Jerusalem, embody the current Government's refusal to pursue the peace process in the Middle East initiated by the Palestinian Authority and the previous Israeli Government. This has led to a stalemate in the process and in the negotiations and could well adversely affect their ultimate outcome.

In this connection, we call on the United Nations to salvage the peace process, which has been blessed by the General Assembly in its previous resolutions addressing Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories and standing firmly against the Israeli intransigence jeopardizing the peace process in the Middle East.

My delegation stresses the need for the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to abide by the provisions of that Convention. Moreover, we call on Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the provisions of the Convention and its applicability to the occupied Palestinian territories. From this perspective, we support the recommendation that the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention convene a conference to elaborate specific provisions on the applicability of the Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem. Hence, we call upon the General Assembly to speedily begin preparations for that conference.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to stress the need for the General Assembly to put an end to Israeli colonial activities. At the same time, it should attempt to prevent Israel from pursuing its expansionist policies in the occupied territories, as they threaten the Middle East peace process. Hence, my delegation calls for the adoption of the draft resolution before us today in order to advance the peace process.

The President: In accordance with the decision adopted at the eighth plenary meeting this morning, I now call on the Observer of Switzerland.

Mr. Maurer (Switzerland) (*interpretation from French*): The serious issue that we are discussing is the applicability of the Geneva Conventions. The action of the Swiss Government, in its capacity as depositary of these Conventions, is aimed at contributing to effectively improving respect for international humanitarian law on the ground. The Swiss delegation expressed this intention last November, when it also recalled Switzerland's concern to avoid any politicization of humanitarian law and action and to support the peace process.

Since the adoption of resolution ES-10/4, Switzerland has held informal consultations in order to draw up a plan for following up on paragraphs 4 and 5 of that resolution that could be acceptable to all the main parties concerned. Switzerland has striven to take into account the ideas that have been presented to it, as well as the aforementioned goals, which it continues to seek. In doing so, my country has borne in mind the political message sent to the parties to the Geneva Conventions by a very large majority of the General Assembly, in the form of resolution ES-10/4, as well as the scope and limits of its responsibilities as depositary of the Geneva Conventions.

The fruit of this in-depth reflection is a proposal that was submitted last 5 March to the main parties concerned. Switzerland suggests the holding of a closed meeting, which could be repeated if necessary, between the representatives of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Switzerland believes that the presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross, given its role as guardian of international humanitarian law, would be highly desirable. Switzerland would participate in this dialogue in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Conventions.

We believe it is imperative to bring together the main parties concerned. My delegation stated last November that in our view the conference called for in resolutions ES-10/3 and ES-10/4 would be useful only if the main parties concerned participated. If we wish the conference to have a real chance to contribute significantly to improving the situation on the ground the preparations for it should be given the utmost care and the time required.

As to the substance, Switzerland has always felt that the Fourth Geneva Convention was applicable to all the territories occupied by Israel, including those whose annexation has not been recognized by the international community, and Switzerland will spare no effort to guarantee real respect for international humanitarian law. It remains convinced of the need to create, as of today, a framework conducive to an open and constructive discussion of the problems mentioned in resolution ES-10/4. We are furthermore convinced that the meeting of experts proposed by my country is not only faithful to the letter and spirit of resolution ES-10/4 but is also a necessary step in order to achieve real improvements on the ground and to assess the possibility of a follow-up. In due course, Switzerland will present to the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions and to the Secretary-General its assessment of this matter.

To reiterate our proposal, here in the General Assembly, we are requesting that our plan be given a chance and that a dialogue at least be attempted. In the spirit of article 1 shared by all four Geneva Conventions, and in the spirit of resolutions ES-10/3 and ES-10/4, the direct dialogue that we are proposing would be aimed at examining all possible measures that could contribute to an improvement in the application of international humanitarian law in the occupied territories. Members will note that the goals of the meeting of experts are both lofty and very concrete, and they respond to a need.

We conclude by recalling that Switzerland attaches the greatest importance to its role as depositary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977. The Swiss Government assumes this role, its technical tasks included. Furthermore, the promotion of peace, human rights and international humanitarian law lies at the heart of its foreign policy. It is from this perspective that Switzerland has spared no effort to respond to the recommendations of operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of resolution ES-10/4. While remaining at the disposal of the parties to the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland holds to its proposal and will not fail to implement it as soon as possible.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this meeting.

We shall now proceed to consider the draft resolution contained in document A/ES-10/L.4/Rev.1.

If no delegation wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the voting, the Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in document A/ES-10/L.4/Rev.1.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Bulgaria, Marshall Islands, Romania, Swaziland

Draft resolution A/ES-10/L.4/Rev.1 was adopted by 120 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions (resolution ES-10/5).

The President: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to make statements in explanation of vote. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Millar (Australia): Australia continues to support the principles underlying this resolution and therefore regrets that it is not able to support the resolution itself. We wish to make clear that we regard settlement activity in the occupied territory as harmful to the peace process.

Australia remains gravely concerned about the current state of the peace process and has consistently urged the parties to commit themselves to effective negotiations to achieve a just, enduring and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. There is no substitute for frank, direct and wide-ranging talks between the parties themselves. We consider that the draft resolution will not advance that process, and we have therefore abstained.

The President: Before the representative of Norway takes the floor, I should like to say a few words. The Ambassador of Norway presented his credentials in January, but he is not a newcomer here, as he served here many years ago in the same capacity. As members will recall, his predecessor participated very actively in the preparation of draft negotiations on issues pertaining to the reform suggested by the Secretary-General, and in particular the most difficult part of the reforms — actions. But to my mind, all the Norwegian ambassadors here have been reformers.

After this brief introduction, I again welcome the newly appointed Ambassador of Norway to his position.

Mr. Biørn Lian (Norway): I thank you, Sir, for your kind words.

Norway is gravely concerned about the ongoing escalation of violence between the Israelis and Palestinians on the West Bank. We feel that the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process creates a basis for increased violence. We call on both sides to intensify their bilateral contacts on the highest possible level to implement outstanding issues in the interim agreement, including the redeployment on the West Bank, and to move as fast as possible to the final status negotiations.

Norway remains convinced that the holding of this emergency special session of the General Assembly is not conducive to progress in the peace process. We also maintain our reservations in respect of a number of elements in the resolution. It is the ultimate obligation and responsibility of the parties themselves to carry the peace process forward.

Nevertheless, Norway remains deeply concerned about Israel's continuance of its settlement activities in the Palestinian areas. Such unilateral steps serve only to increase the tension. They are clearly not in the spirit of the agreements reached between the two sides, and are contrary to international law.

We therefore had no choice but to uphold our position from the meeting of the emergency special session in November and to vote in favour of the resolution.

Mr. Powles (New Zealand): The New Zealand delegation is pleased to have supported the resolution before us, particularly because of the way in which it focuses on the question of Israeli settlements, one crucial element in the intricate jigsaw of the current peace process.

We therefore supported the resolution despite the reservations my Government holds about the utility of an international conference under the Geneva Convention. My Government sincerely hopes that a way will be found for the parties to refrain from further steps that undermine whatever trust and confidence still remain between them. We regard such restraint as critical to progress towards a final settlement.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the vote.

I call on the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Choe Myong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): This morning the Israeli representative groundlessly accused my country of having

invaded South Korea in 1950. If he were not an *amaurotic* person, he would not have distorted the historical facts so ignorantly. Quite contrary to what he alleged, my country was the victim of an aggressive and harsh war imposed by a foreign force.

When the cold war was at its peak, at the beginning of the 1950s, the United Nations was turned into a place that was against the then-Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Against this backdrop, the United States brought the fabricated, so-called invasion of the south by North Korea to the United Nations.

In order to prove our position, we requested to participate in the Security Council, but were rejected, with no reason given. In my the absence of my country — a victim of the war — a unilateral resolution was adopted against it. In the United Nations, where strength was the panacea at that time, what else could not have been fabricated against a small country such as ours?

My delegation categorically rejects the Israeli allegations, which are based on distorted historical facts. The Israeli accusation against my country, which is not a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict, is aimed at hiding its aggression and brutal, reckless atrocities against the Palestinian and Arab peoples.

These accusations cannot in any way be justified.

The President: The tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly is now adjourned, in accordance with the terms of paragraph 8 of the resolution adopted at the present meeting.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.